

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An occupant detection system for a motor vehicle includes at least two occupant detection devices. A first occupant detection device is, for example, a seat occupancy or weight detection device arranged in the vehicle seat. The second occupant detection device comprises a first electrode arranged in the seat, and a second electrode arranged in the adjoining foot well. An electrical coupling variable is detected, and is used to determine a variable which characterizes an occupant, by means of an electrical field which is applied between the two electrodes.